

## Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Reference Group

Date	7 February 2023	Time	1-4pm
Venue	MidCoast Council Administration Centre, 2 Biripi Way Taree	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich
Present	Cr Peter Epov, Cr Paul Sandilands, Greg Hale, Alastair Breingan, Anna Burleigh, Peter Hatton, Jess Corkill, Margy Hilder, Karen Anderson, Daniel Trudgeon, Mark Johnson, Steve Prohm, Peter Brown, Jenny Brewer, John Green, Mark Redding		
Apologies	Alex Mills, Sandra Bourke, Paul De Szell, Cr Dheera Smith		

### Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	<p>Progress on telecommunications issues as reported by the Bushfire recovery reference group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group referred to the document: Summary of issues and Council actions 20210530.</li> <li>• Fires Near Me App has now been upgraded. There are limits to how quickly it can be updated</li> <li>• Emergency Operations Centre communications – in future will be considered if briefings can be done to the media twice daily</li> <li>• The Disaster dashboard to be promoted, up to date information to be included. Council to investigate any scope to make it more interactive and detailed</li> <li>• Collection of accurate information and distribution of information is still an issue</li> <li>• Killabakh is now using UHF radios in RFS trucks and at the RFS shed.</li> <li>• Would Starlink installation on community halls be a viable option – Janine to follow up</li> </ul>
2	General conversation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need communication “profiles” for fires, flood, etc. Templates/messages prepared with information people might need during an emergency</li> <li>• Localised resilience is needed, we need to build community capacity</li> <li>• Janine is working with a network of local community representatives on practical ways communities can be more prepared for natural disaster. Current focus is on how communications can be done better, with communications between residents in the community, and to outside the community (emergency services, family, friends)</li> <li>• There is support available for communities wanting to put together their own community emergency plan. Contact Janine for more information</li> </ul>
3	Recovery issues still needing resolution – see separate document

### Outstanding actions

Item	Who
Starlink installation on community halls – is there a way it can be subsidised	Janine to investigate funding options
Outstanding local road repairs from the floods	Janine to find out what is planned for them

### Next meeting

Date	4th April	Time	1:00 - 4:00pm
Venue	MidCoast Council Chambers	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich

<b>Specific natural disaster recovery issues that need to be advocated for in your community area.</b>	<b>Community</b>
People don't want to/can't clean up their land to manage bushfire risk (elderly, don't have resources, trauma)	Possum Brush
People still struggling to rebuild their homes. People didn't have insurance/not enough insurance	Mooral Creek, Bobin
Compliance checks deeming houses uninhabitable as a DA does not exist	Potaroo falls
People cannot get flood insurance, or it is no longer affordable	floodprone areas, Forster Keys, Weeroona Caravan Park (Manning Point)
Community do not know where the evacuation centres are, where they should evacuate to as people, and where to take their animals. Biosecurity concerns are not usually considered	Gloucester
Private road damage (Council does not have jurisdiction). Significant access issues, who pays for them to be fixed? Diminishing volunteer base, rising age in the population, not able to do as much for the community in times of stress	across all areas  Everywhere?
Neighbourhood Safer Place - many rural communities would like one but are unable to register as one with RFS - community halls do not fulfill RFS criteria. Need infrastructure upgrades to comply, or change to criteria Better access to water for firefighting	Rural halls  anywhere away from mains water
Disaster preparedness for tourists - how to make sure they know what to do and where to go	Gloucester (valleys - out of time)

## Long term pro-active recovery in disaster affected areas

Communities need to be more prepared for disasters, emergency services are not able to get to everyone

Manning Point,  
Mitchells Island,  
Oxley Island

local roads still damaged and not fixed properly

Manning point road,  
Oxley Island to  
Manning Point, Main  
street (Manning  
Point), Old Bar Rd  
(Tavern to  
ambulance station),  
Harrington Rd,  
Lansdowne Rd,  
Upper Lansdowne Rd

Uncoordinated help

Flood clean ups involving outside organisations (ADF, RFS, etc.) resulted in the gutting of homes where there were belongings that could have been salvaged

People don't know how to prepare for disasters

People need food to prepare and eat straight after disaster

People needing assistance replacing material items destroyed in the disaster

everywhere

everywhere

<b>Who</b>	<b>Which disaster does it relate to?</b>
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Trypheyne McShane      bushfire

John Green                bushfire

Jess Corkill                bushfire

Cr Peter Epov, Janine      floods

Anna, Jess                 all natural disasters

Maria Frazer                bushfires and floods

Anna                         all natural disasters

Alastair                     bushfire

Greg and Alastair          bushfire

Anna

Anna

Margy floods - all natural  
disasters

Margy floods

Jenny all natural disasters

Jenny all natural disasters

## Resolution?

People can self-refer to the free AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly) RFS program  
<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider>.

People without an insurance resolution or are unhappy with their claim/payout can get free legal assistance/advice through legal aid.

Information given back to Jess. No further follow up needed

Can Council lobby?

Education to community members? Development of household plans so people know what their options are. Invite Police/LEOCON to talk to the group about processes

No easy resolution

Council develop a volunteer database (for spontaneous volunteers during a disaster, or before a disaster) Encourage people to register with existing volunteer services or local community hall/group. Could people register through the disaster dashboard? lifeline, Lions, Red Cross, Lions, BWNG all have volunteer databases

funding for infrastructure upgrades or ask RFS to change criteria or different designation

Could there be a registry of pre-existing new bores for RFS as safe water supply in a fire?  
More awareness of SWS. People install appropriate fittings on tanks for fire trucks to access. Council process to enable making their water trucks available. Could a grant process be set up for people to retrofit tank fittings

?

Community emergency plans - can they be registered with Council/LEMO/Emergency Services?

Janine to find out status of repairs on this road or if any strategic works planned

AUTHORITIES LISTENED TO WRONG PEOPLE - Unfortunately when agencies contacted communities to see if help was still needed, the people they spoke to had no idea who was actually still suffering and said everyone had recovered... Luckily through other conversations with different people, the agencies found out that a lot of people in that community had only just started recovery processes... And needed help!

No-one knew what we were supposed to do, insurance companies were saying different things to different people. We were told take the help from the fire and army while they were there cos they won't be there long.... I would suggest a team of people go to each community when it's safe to return and explain, fire etc will be coming here in a couple of days... They can help with... Would U like help.... Between now and when fire comes please try go through things and try salvage what U wish (to make fire time used best and so nothing is accidentally disposed of)

More information on preparedness for all natural disasters, realistic expectations about how quickly they will get help. People painting house numbers on gutters and kerbs so homes are easier to locate

Global Care is able to provide emergency food boxes from Foodbank. Also able to do deliveries and bulk meals

Global Care are able to make Givit requests and special requests can be fast tracked



## What else?

Minderoo Foundation offer

People are encouraged to investigate the NSW house raising scheme and voluntary buy back scheme

Probably more feasible for Council's recovery plan to contain a list of organisations volunteers could be directed to

Grant idea?

The Harrington Crowdy Head Community Resilience Team published "A Resilient Community" booklet - it was distributed to every home, business in Harrington and Crowdy Head, with multiple copies left at there caravan parks. SES have plans to work with at risk caravan parks for the development of individual emergency plans for guests and residents

Pre event identification of likely issues and services able to address the issued? Documentation in a recovery plan template?

Council/LEMC to maintain a contact list of key community contacts to get more accurate information about recovery needs?

Can Council take a more proactive role coordinating clean up and managing community expectations of how it will occur?

funding for house numbering scheme? Disaster preparedness workshops? Peter Brown's bushfire preparedness work?

Council to keep a register of who can provide what services post disaster. Web page/directory for these details

Council to keep register of who can make Givit requests, information made known to recovery centres (if they are activated)